

University of Minnesota Morris Digital Well University of Minnesota Morris Digital Well

University Relations News Archive

External Relations

8-24-2009

Garavaso explores the impact of mistranslations of words written by the "father of logic"

University Relations

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.morris.umn.edu/urel_news

Recommended Citation

University Relations, "Garavaso explores the impact of mistranslations of words written by the "father of logic"" (2009). *University Relations News Archive*. Paper 1315.
http://digitalcommons.morris.umn.edu/urel_news/1315

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the External Relations at University of Minnesota Morris Digital Well. It has been accepted for inclusion in University Relations News Archive by an authorized administrator of University of Minnesota Morris Digital Well. For more information, please contact skulann@morris.umn.edu.

Contact

Melissa Weber, Director of Communications

Phone: 320-589-6414, weberm@morris.umn.edu

Jenna Ray, Editor/Writer

Phone: 320-589-6068, jrray@morris.umn.edu

Garavaso explores the impact of mistranslations of words written by the "father of logic"

Summary: The research of Pieranna Garavaso, professor of philosophy, will influence how scholars understand Gottlob Frege's views on thinking and add a new perspective to the field.

(August 24, 2009)-Pieranna Garavaso, University of Minnesota, Morris professor of philosophy, is writing a book, titled Frege's Thinking, with Italian colleague Nicla Vassallo, professor of philosophy at the University of Genoa. The two scholars' research and writing mission is to change the way people read and understand the thinking of Gottlob Frege (1848-1925), a mathematician and philosopher who is considered the father of modern logic and the grandfather of analytic philosophy.

As a university professor teaching mathematics, Frege's major intent was to reduce all mathematical truths to logical truths. He wrote Conceptual Notation in his native German.

English translations of original German writings served as the foundation for published interpretations of Frege by Michael Dummett, Frege expert and Oxford University professor. And, the translations contain errors.

For example, the German words "Denken" and "Gedanke" in Frege's writings are very important. "Denken" means to think or thinking. "Gedanke" denotes the result or object of thinking—a thought in English. Dummett presents Frege as wholly opposed to psychologism, i.e., as totally disinterested in "Denken" or the actual process of human thinking. For Dummett, Frege only focuses on "Gedanke," or thought, i.e., on the result of thinking.

Garavaso and Vassallo are studying the significant impact of the mistranslated words. They believe that Frege was interested in thinking and the ways in which humans gain knowledge, much more than Dummett claims. Their research, published as a book, will influence how scholars understand Frege's views on thinking and add a new perspective to the field of scholarly interpretations of Frege's philosophy.

One of thirteen Morris faculty recipients, Garavaso received an inaugural University of Minnesota Imagine Fund Awards to support her research. The competitive program, funded in part by a generous McKnight Foundation grant, supports scholarship and artistic endeavors in the arts, design, and humanities.

Through personal and academic discovery, the University of Minnesota, Morris provides opportunities for students to grow intellectually, engage in community, experience environmental stewardship and celebrate diversity. A renewable and sustainable educational experience, Morris prepares graduates for careers, for advanced degrees, for lifelong learning, for work world flexibility in the future, and for global citizenship. Learn more about Morris at morris.umn.edu or call 888-866-3382.